Iowa Telecommunications & Technology Commission
Telephonic Meeting
Grimes State Office Building, 1st Floor
Des Moines

F i n a l

February 20, 2008

Commissioners Present
Betsy Brandsgard, Chairperson (by phone)
Robert R. Hardman, Member (by phone)
Timothy L. Lapointe, Member (by phone)
David A. Vaudt, Ex-Officio Member (by phone)

Commissioners Absent
Pamela A. Duffy, Member
Michael W. Mahaffey, Member

Iowa Communications Network Staff Present
Joseph Cassis, Deputy Director
Dave Marley, Operations Administrator
Dave Lingren, Service and Delivery Administrator (by phone)
Kevin Heinzeroth, Finance Administrator
Vicki Wallis, Engineering Administrator
Gail McMahon, Public Relations Manager
Tami Fujinaka, Government Relations Manager
Diane Van Zante, Secretary (Recorder)
Adrienne Vesey, Intern

Guests
Kyle Holmgren, Qwest
Gina Miller, Qwest

Call to Order

Ms. Brandsgard called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Table 01/31/08 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lapointe moved that the Commission table approval of the January meeting minutes until the March 2008 meeting; Commissioner Hardman seconded the motion. An oral vote was taken; all Commissioners concurred.

New Business

Planning Project Updates -
- Embarking on Enterprise Architecture – Joseph Cassis.
  Technology is converging today. We started to evaluate the impact on our business and realized that the fragmentation of our systems is problematic. The operating support systems, network support system, and financial system all need to be reviewed. We brought

on an ITE consultant to assist in the architectural work and asked Vicki Wallis to develop the business requirements. This is likely a one to two year project. By the end of June, we should have a good grasp of things. This initiative also required some organizational changes. Some tasks were shifted to Paul Stuber, Dave Lingren shifted some of his responsibilities, and Phil Groner has been assigned some new duties. This will give us the adaptability and continuity that we need going forward.

- Ethernet - Vicki Wallis.
  As discussed at a previous meeting, we have been looking at the issue of dispersion and trying to determine the best solution. The dispersion compensation module appears to be the fastest, most cost-effective option. We did obtain one dispersion compensation module and are planning various tests to uncover any limitations that might exist. This extends the timeline for deploying the equipment, but is necessary to do due diligence for our customers.

- Communications – PR and Communications Efforts - Joseph Cassis.
  We are modifying our current plan to reflect the customer survey results and the discussions that took place during the strategic planning initiative. Communications efforts will be broken into two areas, internal and external. Internally, we want to provide more detail on potential bills and new policies, address concerns about media reports, make office space more pleasant, and reinstitute a "new employee" process. Externally, there is a lack of training, so we want to formalize our training component. More detailed plans will be presented at the next ITTC meeting.

Telehealth Project Update – Dave Lingren.
The Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) work group has developed RFPs and identified many of the facilities that will be participating in the first year (which ends June 30, 2008). RFPs must be returned, scored, and awarded by June 30 so that there can be a commitment of funds. Last week, Dave Swanson went to Washington, D.C. for training on the grant process to ensure that we understand the requirements as we move forward.

How did the Iowa Health Systems (IHS) network come into being? IHS is the state's largest healthcare provider, centered in the Des Moines and Cedar Rapids areas. St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids wanted to share data/information with hospitals in the Des Moines area. Initially, they decided to connect seven members throughout the state. At that time, the network was only intended to connect IHS affiliated hospitals, not other health care providers. The IHS proposal would allow any hospital to connect to the existing network and also permit connections to insurance companies, pharmacies, etc. The IHA proposal primarily connects hospitals throughout the state.

Legislative/IGOV Proposals – Joseph Cassis.
Four bills are being considered:
1. Military access to the ICN for state and national security (HF 512).
2. Expansion of the definition of authorized users to include nonprofits and private individuals. It would allow the ICN to set reduced rates for entities that meet specific criteria (HF686).
3. Giving access to counties (no formalized bill at this time).
4. Concerning Part III connections, provision of a mechanism for the ITTC to own Part III connections when there is a business case to do so (SB323).

Of these four, the only bill proposed by the ICN deals with Part III connections.

To give greater clarity to the Part III issue, each year a few of the Part III leases come up for renewal and they are put out for bid. In most instances, the only bid is from the incumbent vendor. Sometimes there are no bids. If there are no bids or the bid includes a cost that is prohibitive, the ICN wants to be able to determine what is in the citizens' best interest, to consider all of the options available. The bill would give the ITTC the opportunity to explore other options when the current option is not feasible. An FAQ on this subject is being developed and will be forwarded once it is final.

Bi-Weekly Update Items -
- Voice Update – Dave Marley.
  There have been several problems with voicemail. We are actively working the problems and Dave has asked for daily reports on open issues and is receiving them. We are working with the vendor to apply patches on known problems, but sometimes the issue is on our end.

- Infrastructure – Dave Marley.
  There are twelve generators throughout the state that have open trouble tickets. Some rectifiers are reaching end of life. The Governor did not include our request for generators in his budget proposal. There were 16 fiber cuts in 2007, compared to 11 in 2006. We are exploring a ring architecture in the Bettendorf, Council Bluffs and Sioux City areas.

- Assignment of Vendor Contracts – Kevin Heinzeroth.
  In the last six to eight months, two of the ICN's major vendors have been purchased by other companies, such as the purchase of McLeod by Paetec. All of our contracts are operating as business as usual. Terawave was purchased by Okum Networks. We are currently working with the new company to find out what their plans are for the equipment we have.

- Customer Opportunities – Dave Lingren.
  A lot of state agencies are looking at Voice over IP (VoIP) for their rural office locations. We continue to see a huge demand for Internet and Ethernet bandwidth. There is a lot of interest in IP Video. We are hearing from customers who want to be part of the rollout.

Critical Assets – Joseph Cassis.
There is an open records issue regarding the provision of sensitive information that could compromise the State or our network. After a review of the Code, we intend to formulate a policy that speaks to this issue.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

The next ITTC meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Grimes Building. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.